

Producer and Practitioner Assisted Research: Suckling Beef Calf Pneumonia

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In an effort to better define the causes and costs of respiratory disease in suckling beef calves, **we need your help!** Faculty members at the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine are looking for calves that are showing evidence of respiratory disease prior to weaning. We would like to work with you and your local veterinarian to collect a set of samples from the sick calf **and** two normal herdmates. We are sampling both sick and normal calves to be able to tell the difference in pathogen load between the two groups.

These calves have to be home raised and nursing their dams to be eligible for inclusion in the study. They must be at least 24 hours old and vaccination status does not matter. We would ask that you tell us what vaccines the calves were given prior to sampling. Calves may be housed in a drylot situation (such as a calving pen) or out on summer grass. The research project would offset the cost of sample collection, provide the materials needed, and would pay for all diagnostic lab charges. You and your veterinarian would get results back from the diagnostic lab within 48 hours. Our faculty would also be more than happy to work with you and your veterinarian to follow up on the cases, if needed.

The workup at the diagnostic lab will check for all of the major bacteria and viruses that are normally associated with respiratory disease in calves. Again, the research project will pay for the diagnostic testing so there would be no charge to you. If you were to pay for this type of testing, it would run between \$185 and \$200 per calf. The project does not pay for mileage charges or the cost of treating a sick calf. In order to make sure that no one herd affects the results, we have to limit the number of sick calves sampled from each herd to a maximum of three (and the 6 normal calves that would be also included).

Samples to be collected from the sick calf and two normal herdmates include:

- nasal swabs from each nostril
- red top tube of blood (10 cc.)
- “ear notch” place in formalin (BVD testing)
- trans-tracheal wash sample

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